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Notes on *Brachioxena* Diakonoff, 1968 with list of its species (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae)

J. Razowski

Abstract

Oriental *Bipenicillia* Amsel, 1968 is synonymized with *Brachioxena* Diakonoff, 1968 from Tropical Africa. The genus consists of four Afrotropical species (*lutrocopa*, *niveipalpis*, *psammacta*, *sparactis*) and one Oriental species (*pakistanella*).

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Tortricidae, *Brachioxena*, new synonymy, new combinations, Afrotropical, Oriental

Notas sobre *Brachioxena* Diakonoff, 1968 con lista de sus especies (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae)

Resumen

Oriental *Bipenicillia* Amsel, 1968 es sinonimizado con *Brachioxena* Diakonoff, 1968 del África Tropical. El género consiste de cuatro especies Afrotropicales (*lutrocopa*, *niveipalpis*, *psammacta*, *sparactis*) y una especie Oriental (*pakistanella*).

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Tortricidae, *Brachioxena*, nueva sinonimia, nueva combinación, Afrotropical, Oriental.

Discussing the affinities between the genera of Tortricidae of the Afrotropical and Palaearctic regions (RAZOWSKI, 2002) I found that eight genera are common of the two regions and the Oriental region. *Brachioxena* was found also in western part of the Oriental region but is certainly widely distributed in the Tropical Africa.

Brachioxena Diakonoff, 1968

Brachioxena Diakonoff, 1968 (17.V.), Beaufortia, Nr. 189: 74. Type-species: *Cydia psammacta* Meyrick, 1908, (Afrotropical) - by original designation.

Bipenicillia Amsel, 1968 (1.X.), Stuttg. Beitr. Naturkde, Nr. 119: 16 - **syn. n.** Type-species: *Bipenicillia pakistanella* Amsel, 1968, (Oriental) - by original designation.

Externally the species of *Brachioxena* reminiscent *Eucosma* Hübner, [1825] and the illustration of adults are presented by CLARKE (1958) and AMSEL (1968). Venation is similar to that in *Rhopobota* Lederer, 1859 but in forewing veins M2, M3 and Cu1A are more strongly approaching to one another at termen and inner veins of median cell are atrophied (cf. DIAKONOFF 1968).

Male genitalia (Fig. 1) characterize with uncus broad, tapering terminally, socii small, subrigid and gnathos with well developed arms and median plate. Basal cavity subtriangularly extending to beyond mid-length of valva, costa provided with median prominence; sacculus long with or without a free

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terminal lobe; neck of valva indistinct; ventral incision rounded, cucullus very small, with a few thorns, often separated proximally by a distinct ventral process; dorso-basal part of valva forming a peculiar club-shaped process bristled terminally; aedeagus simple; cornuti numerous deciduous spines.



Fig. 1.— Holotype of *Brachioxena lutrocopa* (Meyrick, 1914).

Female genitalia illustrated by DIAKONOFF (1968): Ovipositor short; sterigma a small plate and scobinate membrane hidden under distal lobe of median portion of subgenital sternite; colliculum with small sclerite; cingulum sclerite large, postmedian; signa pair, tolerably of same size.

Biology little known (dates of collection of moths only: I, III, XII).

Distribution. Known from southern part of the African continent: from Belgian Congo to Uganda, Rhodesia, Pretoria, and Transvaal, South Africa.

Remarks. Diagnosis: Distinct by the broad valva, small cucullus and large club-shaped dorso-basal process of valva. Medio-posterior lobe of sterigma may also prove an autapomorphy of this genus. The large basal cavity of valva and its indistinctly marked posterior edge are characteristic of the genus but their importance is unclear. The systematic position is obscure. AMSEL (1968) compared it with *Acroclita* Lederer, 1859 and DIAKONOFF (1968) stated only that the genus could be placed in Eucosmini. Still there is no support to any other interpretation. We only can say that the genitalia of *Brachioxena* are highly specialized within the tribe. The simplification of the valva complex is shown in a reduction of neck and cucullus, quite differently than in *Eucosma* in which these parts are well developed. The most primitive species of *Brachioxena* is *sparactis* in which valva is simple. We may then suppose that the dorso-basal process of valva (called by Diakonoff the "erect labis") could involve earlier. A si-

milar configuration of this part of valva can be observed in other groups of Tortricidae, e.g. in Cochylini (Neotropical *Lincicochylis* Razowski, 1986 and Holarctic *Cochylidia* Obraztsov, 1956 - in the two certainly independently).

Some species of this genus (*psammacta*, *lutrocopa*) show very slight genital differences at least in the males and may even prove to be conspecific.

List of species

- B. lutrocopa* (Meyrick, 1914), Ann. Transvaal Mus., **4**(14): 188 (*Eucosma*) - **comb. n.**
B. niveipalpis (Meyrick, 1938), Inst. Parcs Nat. Congo Belge, **14**: 8 (*Eucosma*) - **comb. n.** Congo Belge.
B. pakistanella (Amsel, 1968), Stuttg. Beitr. Naturkde., **191**: 16, pl.6, fig. 1, pl. 12, fig. 25 (*Bipenicillia*) - **comb. n.** Pakistan.
B. psammacta (Meyrick, 1908), Proc. Zool. Soc. London, **1908**: 721 (*Cydia*). - CLARKE, 1958: 384 (*Eucosma*). - DIAKONOFF, 1968: 76 (*Brachioxena*). Republik of South Africa: Transvaal, Pretoria.
B. sparactis (Meyrick, 1928), Exotic Microlepid., **3**: 440 (*Eucosma*) - **comb. n.**; included in this genus but not indicated as comb. n.). Uganda.

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